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STATEMENT OF DAYANA MEJIA

You can imagine how difficult it was for us to learn about what happened to Edwin – to learn that he almost died, that he may never walk again. That is all still sinking in. We are confused, and we are scared.

What we are going through has been made even worse by the perception that some people apparently have about the people who participated in the motorcycle ride last Sunday. They are not gang members. They are not thugs. They are Fedex drivers, plumbers, military reservists, musicians. They are fathers and brothers and sons, and sisters and mothers – ordinary people like you and me who share a common enthusiasm for motorcycles. Edwin didn't know any of the people he was riding with before Sunday, other than the one friend he came to New York with. The outpouring of support these strangers have given us during the last few days has been amazing, and we will forever be grateful for their help.

Edwin is as devoted family man as they come. He has been a wonderful, loving partner to me for almost 17 years. He is an adoring and caring father to our two children. Until he was run over by this SUV, he has been there for our two children every single day – literally. Edwin picks our children up from school

every day. He spends the afternoon with them every day. He takes them to their activities. He helps them with their homework. He goes to their parent-teacher conferences at school. He is the best father I know. And he would give the shirt off his back to anyone. We don't have much money, but Edwin is the kind of man who will give a homeless person \$5 to get something to eat. I love him so much. It tears me up that anyone could think that Edwin in any way deserves what happened to him.

October 4, 2013

Dayana Mejia